

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (cancelled)

2. (previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein the production unit produces a retrieval table for each genre of program.

3. (previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 19, further comprising:

means for inputting a broadcast time to be retrieved;

means for executing program retrieval on the basis of the input broadcast time and the retrieval table; and

processing means for reading stored program information of a retrieved program and carrying out display processing to display the information of the program to the user.

4. (cancelled)

5. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the step of allocating the second program guide information in a retrieval table includes producing a retrieval table for each genre of program.

6. (previously presented) The program retrieval method as claimed in claim 20, further comprising the steps of:

inputting a broadcast time to be retrieved;

executing program retrieval on the basis of the input broadcast time and the retrieval table;

reading out stored program information of a retrieved program; and

carrying out display processing to display the information of the program to the user.

7-12. (canceled)

13. (previously presented) The receiver of claim 19, wherein a plurality of programs are allocated in a selected time slot for a given channel, and separate clone EPG objects are assigned to each respective one of the plurality of programs in the selected time slot.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein multiple programs are allocated in a selected time slot for a given channel, and separate clone EPG objects are assigned to each respective one of the plurality of programs in the selected time slot.

15-16. (cancelled)

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the program table includes program data of a plurality of programs for a predetermined genre.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the program table includes program data of a plurality of programs for a predetermined genre.

19. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus, comprising:

an acquisition unit operable to acquire first program guide information, the first program guide information including broadcasting time information of a program;

a production unit operable to produce second program guide information from the first program guide information, the second program guide information including the broadcasting time

information of the program for every time slot spanned by the program, the time slots being in lengths of an hour, 30 minutes or 15 minutes;

an allocation unit operable to allocate the second program guide information as one or more clone EPG objects in a retrieval table for retrieval based upon the time slots spanned by the program, wherein each of the clone EPG objects ~~being~~ is allocated to a single one of the time slots spanned by the program by directly copying the first program guide information of the program as the clone EPG objects and then setting each clone EPG object to a respective one of the time slots spanned by the program; and

a retrieval unit employing a given one of the time slots as a search condition to set retrieval processing, the retrieval unit being operable to retrieve a respective one of the clone EPG objects for the second program guide information from the retrieval table using the given time slot as the search condition to identify the respective clone EPG object for the program;

wherein a program table for displaying information of the program to a user is generated based on the respective clone EPG object.

20. (currently amended) An information processing method, comprising:

acquiring first program guide information from a program source, the first program guide information including broadcasting time information of a program;

producing second program guide information from the first program guide information, the second program guide information including the broadcasting time information of the program for every time slot spanned by the program, the time slots being in lengths of an hour, 30 minutes or 15 minutes;

allocating the second program guide information as one or more clone EPG objects in a retrieval table for retrieval based upon the time slots spanned by the program, each of the clone EPG objects being allocated to a single one of the time slots spanned by the program by directly copying the first program guide information of the program as the clone EPG objects and then setting each clone EPG object to a respective one of the time slots spanned by the program;

employing a given one of the time slots as a search condition to set retrieval processing;

retrieving a respective one of the clone EPG objects for the second program guide information from the retrieval table using the given time slot as the search condition to identify the respective clone EPG object for the program; and

generating a program table for displaying information of the program to a user based on the respective clone EPG object.